

BATTLE DAY.

The World's Fair Fight Approaches Its Hottest Pitch.

New Yorkers Confident Amid the Excitement at Washington.

Outlined Tactics of the Opponents of the Great Show.

Chances of the Capital City, in Event of a Compromise.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The National capital is in a perfect ferment of excitement this morning over the impending battle of the World's Fair.

It is the last chance for preliminary skirmishing. The delegations from the four rival cities realize that every moment of time is now valuable, and are hustling with might and main to win every possible vote for the opening ballot.

Until that has been taken no one can tell exactly how the land lies. Hosts of new delegates arrived in town late last night and early this morning, and have been jumped right into the fray eager to assist in the missionary work which has been carried on with increasing activity every succeeding day during the past week.

A general review of the whole situation seems to indicate that the fight will settle down to a sort of three-cornered contest, the result of which will decide whether the Fair will go to New York or Chicago, or whether there will be any Fair at all.

The faction in Congress which is opposed to holding any fair in 1892, though apparently not as strong numerically as either of the other parties, is believed to be sufficient to hold a balance of power in the voting, and the question the boomers are just now trying their best to solve is which way the cat is going to jump when the decisive moment comes.

St. Louis and Washington are regarded only as possible winners, in case it is found necessary for the two leaders in the race to agree to a compromise.

The New York workers have gained a great deal of confidence in the last two days, and although they are not disposed to make such sweeping claims as the farmers from the Windy City, they have been doing a vast amount of quiet but effective work, and as Dr. Chauncey Depew said this morning the strength of New York's position is indicated by increasing numbers of supporters which are being won over at each successive canvass.

The \$12,000,000 guarantee of New York is a mug in the pathway of its ambitious rivals that is having great weight with Congressmen of undecided mind, and which they find that the citizens of Gotham are heartily and cordially in favor of the Fair, the \$4,000,000 of Chicago, a large part of which is believed to consist only of wind, is beginning to look rather paltry, even in the eyes of the delegations from west of the Mississippi, who are supposed to be Chicago's strongest backers.

Among the leading workers for New York now on the ground, besides Dr. Depew, are Mayor Grant, ex-Secretary Whitney, Senator Hiseock, Congressman Flower, Theodore W. Myers, John H. Inman, Bourke Cockran, John C. Calhoun and ex-Senator William Miller.

According to the latest canvass it is confidently expected that New York will get 100 votes on the first ballot.

Great efforts are being made to win over Mr. Carlisle, who represents a large following of Southern Congressmen who are opposed to the holding of any fair, Mr. Mills being one of the most active workers in this faction.

It is reported this morning that Mr. Carlisle, who has been constantly shadowed for the past two days by ex-Secretary Whitney, is in a wavering frame of mind, and if he once gives in and takes his friends with him over to the New York camp, St. Louis and Chicago, who are counting largely on the South for their support, might as well give up, Pennsylvania has all along been regarded as a Chicago State by a good majority, but even this support is now doubtful.

Senator Quay, who can control the delegation, has gone off tarpon fishing in Florida, presumably to be out of the way; but Mr. Depew has discovered his retreat and is now said to have him well in hand.

Another ostensibly anti-Fair man in Speaker Reed, but recent developments have led the Western men to suspect that he is prepared to throw his influence in favor of New York as soon as hostilities actually commence on the floor.

New York men say very little about this, but they look knowing when the subject is broached.

According to the New York figures Gotham can command about one hundred votes on the first ballot, Chicago about the same number, Washington and St. Louis about fifty votes apiece, the remainder being made up of opponents of the Fair.

The Chicago delegation claim that their strength is about 130 votes, New York being placed by them at seventy, St. Louis at sixty and Washington at fifty.

On the break of the Southern line Chicago expects to get enough votes to in-

THEY CAN PAY WAGES WEEKLY.

New York Corporations Better Able than Those of Other States.

The interest in THE WORLD'S WEEKLY Payment bill does not abate. Every day resolutions are adopted by the labor organizations, and letters detailing some pitiful story of poverty occasioned by the system of long interval payments are received.

The terrible conditions of affairs at Lyon Mountain, where one of the Sunday World's special detectives worked for two weeks and then quit in debt to the Company, should remove any doubts that may exist in the minds of the legislators as to the bill of the measure to benefit the workman.

The will of the "company store" system were fully told, and revealed how the poor slaves were robbed, day after day, of the miserable wages they earned.

A well-known authority on labor statistics has sent to Senator Roscoe a statement of the wages of the men employed in the woolen mills in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire, comparing the wages paid in each of these States with the wages paid in New York.

The statistician concludes: "As a matter of justice to the workmen and women of the State of New York, who are less well paid than the men and women of any other State, it is believed that the wages paid in New York are less than those paid in any other State, and that the wages paid in New York are less than those paid in any other State."

The railroad says that they cannot pay weekly. According to statements by the vast number of employees of these roads who are only paid once a month, it is not true.

"I have been on the Erie for years," said an old conductor to an Evening World reporter. "There is absolutely no truth in the claim that the salaries of the men employed on this road cannot be paid weekly."

Johnnie Hopper, who now runs Engine No. 105 and who used to run Engine 358, made with the latter engine a run with the pay car from Jersey City to Fort Leno, N. J., in the evening. Couldn't they do that once a week just as well?

The Central Labor Union of Auburn, yesterday adopted resolutions condemning the passage of the Weekly Payment bill and extending thanks to THE WORLD for its efforts in the workman's behalf.

They May Be Happy Yet. Dr. William Tod Helms spoke at the students' revival meeting in the Metropolitan Opera House last night on the subject of "How a Professional Man May Be Happy."

The doctor told his audience that after an experience of thirty-six years in professional life he had come to the conclusion that the desire for emittance had largely become subordinate to the love for notoriety, and that the love for notoriety had largely become subordinate to the love for money.

He said that a deplorable want of charity manifested in professional relations had been the cause of many of the evils of the profession, and that the only way to overcome these evils was by the practice of charity and good-fellowship.

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THROU TO COOPER UNION.

To-Night's Meeting to Discuss the Eight-Hour Workday.

Labor's Most Eminent Orators Will Address a Great Audience.

Workingmen are little afraid of rain, and the drizzle that set in at 10 o'clock this morning will not materially affect the attendance at the eight-hour mass-meeting to be held at Cooper Union to-night under the auspices of the Central Labor Union.

Daniel Harris, of the Cigar-Makers' Union No. 14, will preside, and Ernest Bohm of the Federation of Bookkeepers will act as Secretary. The interim between the speeches will be enlivened by music, to be furnished by a big band composed of strictly union musicians.

The principal speakers will be men who are thoroughly conversant with the rights and wrongs of workmen. Among them will be Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, and probably the most ardent champion of the eight-hour movement; August Delabar, Secretary of the National Bakers' Union; and Edward King, of the Typographical Union. It is confidently hoped that silver-tongued Frank K. Foster, of Boston, editor of the Laborer, will also be present.

The merits of the Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts, two years ago, will also be presented and speak. While the time will be principally occupied by the speakers, remarks will be made by volunteers, and altogether there will be a rousing meeting.

The sailors have notified all members of the union to be present to-night, and the meeting to be held to-night, and will march in a body from their hall on Hudson street to Cooper Union.

The Central Labor Union yesterday, several delegates to-night, and the system could not be enforced except in a limited number of cases. Members of several trades, they declared, were working nine hours and seemed to be contented. It was finally decided to appropriate money to defray the expenses of to-night's meeting, when the subject of the eight-hour day was to be discussed.

There will be a mass-meeting at Clarendon Hall this evening of the Painters and Paper-Hangers' unions, the German Printers and the German Fresco Painters' unions.

The meeting has been arranged by the Central Council of Painters of New York, James P. Archibald, of the Paper-Hangers and Decorators' Union, and other well-known speakers are expected to be present and make addresses. The eight-hour movement will be discussed and a plan of action for this Spring determined upon.

The Artificial Stone Masons, Cement Laborers and Asphalt Layers' unions, whose members will also be present, will discuss the eight-hour workday, have prepared a plan of action and appointed a committee of thirty-five members to patrol the streets and order the members of the unions to the contemplated strike.

Furniture-Workers' Union No. 7 will discuss the eight-hour day at an eight o'clock conference of the building trades at a special meeting next Thursday.

The different branches of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners will decide this question within the coming two weeks.

SON AGAINST FATHER.

Simon Benjamin's Will Causes a Split in the Rathbun Family.

ELMIRA, N. Y., Feb. 23.—Litigation over the will of Simon Benjamin, a wealthy merchant of two estates involving several hundred thousand dollars, and in which a father and his son are the contestants, will be begun in the Surrogate's Court here to-morrow. Jacob Schwartz, counsel for Simon B. Rathbun, the plaintiff, gives the following statement of the case: "Simon Benjamin died, many years ago, he left a large estate, the value of his personal property being \$200,000. The value of the real estate left by him is known only to the executor, Mr. J. B. Rathbun, and then the relatives of Mr. Benjamin's will. The deceased, after bequeathing large sums to the Elmira and Binghamton churches, directed his executors to divide the residue of his estate between his daughter, Mrs. J. B. Rathbun, and his son, Simon B. Rathbun. The son, Simon B. Rathbun, is a wealthy merchant, and has a large family. The daughter, Mrs. J. B. Rathbun, is a wealthy merchant, and has a large family. The son, Simon B. Rathbun, is a wealthy merchant, and has a large family. The daughter, Mrs. J. B. Rathbun, is a wealthy merchant, and has a large family."

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JOHN JACOB ASTOR'S BURIAL.

Simple Funeral Services To-Morrow at Trinity Chapel.

Interment to Be Beside His Wife in Trinity Cemetery.

The body of John Jacob Astor, serene in the repose of death, lies to-day in the corner room on the second floor of the great brick house at the northwest corner of Fifth avenue and Thirty-third street. It has not been embalmed, nor will it be; but it lies in a bed of ice, while the room is redolent of hyacinths, violets and all kinds of fragrant blossoms.

The house, always a gloomy one outside, is darkened and gloomy within, and its only tenants, Mr. and Mrs. William Waldorf Astor, deny themselves to the scores of sympathizing callers.

There is a broad band of black crape depending from the bell-pull, and the French butler wears an expression of sincere sadness, for the dead man upstairs was a lively man and a good master.

He used his millions with thoughtful leniency for the poor, too, as is evidenced by the expressions of many poor folk who have come up from the tenement-house districts to gaze at the gloomy home.

Today the rumble of busy traffic is deafening in the broad, stone-paved avenue, and the casual pedestrian would hardly think of death as a subject for thought. The residence of William Astor, next door to the scene of death, is almost as gloomy, with its curtains drawn and rooms darkened.

The French steamer which her husband's brother passed away Saturday morning, she will first learn of his death when her husband when she arrives at Havre.

The trim offices of these custodians of the Astor millions, in a two-story building at the corner of Broadway and Sixth street, are closed. They are directly opposite the rear entrance to Trinity Chapel, where the funeral rites will be held.

It is related of John Jacob Astor that, in 1875, while discussing the subject of a will, he said: "I am not interested in anything relating to the enormous personal estate of the dying man was supposed to have been arranged, the father solemnly exclaimed: 'John! What did we do with that six millions of registered U. S. 4s?' 'I forgot them, father,' replied the son."

"What ought we to do with them, John?" asked the father, after a moment. "I don't know, father," replied the son.

The "girls" were John Jacob Astor's sisters. A man was married to one of them, and the other two were transferred to the daughters. This story illustrates the magnanimity of John Jacob Astor, as well as the father's desire to be remembered.

John Jacob Astor's funeral will occur from Trinity Chapel, West Twenty-fifth street, at 10 o'clock to-morrow. The interment will be in Trinity Cemetery, at One Hundred and Fifty-third street, where the body will lie beside that of the wife who died in 1887.

At the chapel, Rev. Dr. Morgan J. Dix, of Trinity Church, and Dr. Swope of the chapel, will officiate. The body will lie in state at the chapel, and the funeral will be held at 10 o'clock to-morrow.

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WAS THIS MAN MURDERED?

Found Unconscious at the Foot of a Flight of Stairs.

He Dies in Bellevue from Ghastly Wounds on His Head.

The police of the East Twenty-second street station have a mysterious death case on their hands to-day, and although they are inclined to the theory of accident there is sufficient evidence to justify the belief that a murder has been committed.

An unknown man, found bleeding and unconscious at the foot of a stairway in the tenement-house, 202 Avenue A, was removed to Bellevue Hospital, and died yesterday afternoon from his injuries, without having regained consciousness.

Two ugly bruises disfigured his forehead, and a gash on the left side of the head partly closed his eye. He was suffering from concussion of the brain and a fracture of the base of the skull.

Dr. Rogers, of Bellevue, says it is possible that the man may have met his death by falling down the stairs but it is more likely that his injuries were from several murderous blows on the head.

The neighborhood in which the tragedy occurred is infested by many tough characters, notably the East Twenty-second street saloon, the tenement in which he was found is occupied as a saloon kept by Thomas Byrne. It was crowded Saturday night.

About midnight yesterday morning, Mrs. Enders, who lives on the floor over the saloon, was aroused by a rap at her door. Her husband, who is a musician, was away from home, and Mrs. Enders asked who was there.

A man's voice answered her with a demand for admission. She refused, whereupon the unknown resumed his pounding at the door.

Brust and Enders shouted to the housekeeper on the floor above for assistance, and a few minutes later heard a crash on the stairs.

Other tenants, aroused by the noise, rushed into the hall and saw a man lying in a heap at the foot of the stairs.

When the police arrived the hall was filled with men from the saloon, but none of them nor the tenants in the house could identify the unconscious stranger.

He never recovered sufficiently to give his name, and after he died nothing was found in his pockets, and there was no record of jewelry about his person.

The dead man was evidently a German, about 5 feet 9 inches in height; brown hair, mustache and goatee, and weighed about 200 pounds. He was dressed in a frock coat and dark clothing, black derby hat and a pair of trousers.

Saloon-keeper Byrne said this morning that he was entirely ignorant of the manner in which the man met his death. Shortly after 11 o'clock Saturday night he heard a crash in the hallway, but he says he paid no attention to it as the front door was frequently opened and closed with loud noise.

There is a rear door leading to the yard and just before the racket, there was a crowd in the rear of the saloon. A door also leads from the rear of the saloon to the hallway.

Mr. Byrne says that the man entered the saloon about eleven o'clock, and he saw him go out, and went into the back yard. He seemed to be intoxicated.

The stairway down which it is alleged the man fell is a short one, having but fourteen steps. The height of the hall from floor to ceiling is but ten feet. That the man should fall this distance and come away with such injuries is looked upon as peculiar to say the least.

The case is in charge of Coroner Messemmer, who will make a rigid investigation. A theory has been put forth that the man was bent on robbery and accidentally fell downstairs, but the facts do not seem to warrant it.

MUST PAY THE FIDDLER.

Riotous Indiana Students to Be Prosecuted in Court.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—The Chicago police to-day was waged yesterday afternoon by the Sophomores and Freshmen of Wabash College will come up for investigation before the Faculty in special session to-morrow afternoon. The police are also making an investigation and have already arrested several students. The chief of police has ordered the police to keep a close watch on the students, and to arrest any student who is found in the streets after midnight.

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RICHARD BARRETT'S ESCAPE.

The English Murderer and Suicide Dies in Hospital.

Mystery As to the Weapon He Used While in Inspector Byrnes's Charge.

Richard Barrett, the English murderer who cut his throat in a cell at Police Headquarters last night, died in St. Vincent's Hospital at 1.30 A. M. His case from the first was hopeless on account of the great loss of blood.

The surgeons tried vainly to repair the loss to some extent by the transfusion of blood, but Barrett was too far gone to be saved. He died apparently content with having cheated the gallows.

That the prisoner was the Richard Barrett, or "Sore-eyed Dick," wanted at Scotland Yard for the murder of Edward Thomas Williams, at 23 Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park, London, is not doubted. A letter was received at Police Headquarters from Scotland Yard on Feb. 10, asking for Barrett's arrest. It was written by "Assistant Commissioner" B. Anderson on information furnished by Inspector Peel that Barrett was then in New York, and gave the locality upon which it was said he ought to be found.

A full description of him with a woodcut by means of which Barrett was easily identified, accompanied the demand for his arrest.

Detectives Crowley and McNaught were charged with the duty of hunting Barrett up. They found him in the locality indicated in the London letter, boarding at 545 West Fifty-seventh street and working as a plasterer for Power Brothers, 174 Broadway, making \$20 a week. He went here by the name of Richard Collins, and had been known also